DC COMICS

#1B

OF 7

BEYOND THE FRINGE™

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TOM MANDRAKE

BEYOND THE FRINGE

WHAT IF...PETER NEVER DIED?

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"OHMYGOD, OHMYGOD, OHMYGOD..."

BISHOP MANOR

BOSTON, 1995.

...THEY'RE REALLY GONNA PUBLISH IT...

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Peter Bishop

DAD! DAD!!!

WALTER, I TOLD YOU NEVER TO CALL ME ON THIS SCREEN. THIS IS AN UNLISTED SCREEN.

MAYBE IF YOU RETURNED MY FAXES I WOULDN'T HAVE TO.

I TRUST YOU AND NINA HAVE HAD LOTS OF TIME TO PREPARE THE PRESENTATION FROM YOUR *COUPLE'S SUITE* AT *CLARIDGE'S*.

DID YOU HAVE A BREAKTHROUGH?

I HAD AN EPIPHANY! WHICH IS THAT IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*. IT MIGHT BE THE VAN DER WAALS FORCE, I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT I KNOW NOW THAT WE CAN'T CROSS THROUGH TO THE OTHER UNIVERSE. THERE'S NO WAY.

WE'LL KEEP TRYING...

NO, WILLIAM. I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR TEN YEARS, AT YOUR REQUEST, DESPITE MY CONCERNS FOR THE CONSEQUENCES, THE RISKS. I'M *DONE* TRYING. THERE'S NO REASON TO CROSS OVER, ESPECIALLY NOT WITH GENERAL TONKS STILL IN COMMAND. EVEN IF I COULD FIGURE OUT HOW, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

WE'LL RELEASE WINDOW 2.0 NEXT MONTH, THEN KEEP MOVING ON THE YATSKO PROJECT.

WALTER...

TELL NINA I LIKE WHAT SHE'S DONE WITH HER HAIR.

DAD, I GOT A LETTER FROM AAAS! THEY'RE GOING TO PUBLISH MY DARK MATTER PAPER IN *THE SCIENCE JOURNAL*.

FINE, FINE. AS LONG AS THEY DON'T ASK TO SPEAK TO ME; I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW.

HERE. ORDER PIZZA TONIGHT. CELEBRATE.

CARLA? WHICH BEDROOM DID I LEAVE THE GOLD CENTRIFUGE IN?

WHAT'S UP, PETE? MY MAN! YOU GOING OUT? I CAN HAVE TRAVIS BRING THE CAR AROUND.

THANKS, GREG. I'M JUST... GOING TO THE GARDENS. KINDA WANT TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE.

SURE THING, CHAMP. BEEN THERE. YOU HOLLER IF YOU NEED ME.

COMING SOON!

It's 10PM. Do you know where YOUR alternates are?

WINDOW 2.0

...MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE HOLDING THEIR BREATH FOR IT. THE ORIGINAL WINDOW WAS INVENTED IN 1985, YOU PUT IT ON THE MARKET IN 1990. NOW, 5 YEARS LATER, THE PUBLIC IS SALIVATING FOR MORE. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US? ARE THERE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS FROM YOUR ORIGINAL WINDOW TO WINDOW 2.0?

AS YOU KNOW, THE CURRENT WINDOW IS LIMITED. YOU ONLY GET ONE VIEW OF THE ALT. UNIVERSE; THE VIEW FROM YOUR CURRENT POSITION. WINDOW 2.0 WILL INCLUDE A COORDINATE INPUT PANEL SO YOU CAN SEE ANY PART OF THE ALT. UNIVERSE YOU'D LIKE, AT ANY TIME, NO MATTER WHERE YOUR WINDOW IS.

SO YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR ALTERNATES 24/7 FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME. BRILLIANT. I KNOW YOU GOT A LOT OF REQUESTS FOR THAT. AND YOU'RE ALSO WORKING ON A MOBILE VERSION, IS THAT RIGHT?

WE'RE CONSIDERING IT. IF THERE'S A DEMAND.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR OTHER UNIVERSES, WHAT ELSE COULD WE BE SEEING OUT THERE?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT ELSE...

...LAST WEEK, AT THIS EXACT SPOT, SALLY LEE, MOTHER OF ONE, CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A *SHOOTING STAR* EXPLODE IN THE SKY LIKE A FIRECRACKER.

IT IS MY HYPOTHESIS THAT THE STAR CONNECTED WITH A PIECE OF DARK MATTER THAT WAS VIBRATING IN FREQUENCY. I AM CURRENTLY TESTING...

BZZZ

...NO, WAIT. THAT'S NOT RIGHT, THAT SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING...

BLAAAAARRGHHH!!

HEY...

OHH... SHINY!

CRUUUNCH

SORRY ABOUT YOUR TOY, SWEETHEART!

HARVARD ASSHOLES...

SPARE SOME CHANGE?

THAT SHOULD'VE WORKED. WHAT WAS I DOING WRONG...?

REFRIGERATOR DOOR

...CHANGE?

HOLY S@#*!!

I... UH...

YOU LIKE THAT ONE?

REFRIGERATOR DOOR

...I THOUGHT WHITE TULIPS WERE EXTINCT?

I REMEMBER THEM. YOU LIKE IT?

YEAH, IT'S GREAT. IT'S BRILLIANT.

YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT.

NO. I'M... REALLY, I LOVE IT... THE COLORS...

...IT'S MY FIRST ONE, IT'S NOT PERFECT. WISH MORE PEOPLE HAD BEEN HERE TO SEE IT, THOUGH. PEOPLE DON'T REALLY GO OUT ANYMORE...

...ESPECIALLY NOT TO ART GALLERIES.

...BUT YOU'RE HERE.

A STATISTICAL ANOMALY, SWEETHEART. DO YOU WANT A... CAN I BUY YOU A COFFEE?

...SWEETHEART?

PETER BISHOP?

OHMYGOD, EARL. IT *IS* HIM.

CAN WE GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH?

YOUR FATHER IS SUCH A GREAT MAN.

THAT WINDOW CHANGED MY LIFE, YOU KNOW. BOTH OF OURS.

SYLVIA'S MOM IS STILL ALIVE OVER THERE. AND OUR BOY'S AT MED SCHOOL...

...INSTEAD OF WITH THAT HUSSY...

...SYLVIA, I'M SURE MR. BISHOP DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT....

CRAP...

MR. BISHOP?? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I KNOW her somehow...

ASTRID AN MILKSHAKE

ARE YOU *FOLLOWING* ME? CAN'T YOU TAKE A HINT?

I'M REALLY SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN...

...OHGOD, OHGOD... WHAT ARE THEY DOING? IS THIS NORMAL?

WHAT DO YOU *WANT?*

I JUST... I LIKED YOUR PAINTING.

YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT, *"SWEETHEART."*

...LOOK, SORRY, I DON'T KNOW WHY I CALLED YOU THAT BACK THERE. I NEVER DO THAT. THAT'S NOT ME.

...MY NAME'S PETER.

I KNOW. PETER *BISHOP*. I HEARD THOSE PEOPLE TALKING TO YOU. YOU KNOW YOUR DAD RUINED THE WHOLE WORLD, RIGHT?

...YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

DON'T YOU FEEL IT WHEN YOU LOOK THROUGH ONE? WHEN YOU SEE YOUR ALTERNATE? LIKE IT'S SUCKING YOUR LIFE AWAY?

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SEE OUR ALTERNATES UNTIL WE'RE 18...

YOU'VE NEVER SNUCK A PEEK? REALLY? THE SON OF WALTER BISHOP?

LOOK, IT'S JUST A WINDOW! IT'S A PIECE OF TECH. IT MAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE HAPPY. MY DAD DOESN'T EVEN CHARGE FOR IT, THE GOVERNMENT TACKED ON THOSE FEES.

IT'S NOT TECH, IT'S A TRAP. AND A VERY *GOOD* TRAP. THE *"WINDOW TO A BETTER LIFE."* YOU CAN SEE IT BUT NEVER *QUITE* REACH IT.

WHAT IF YOU *COULD* REACH IT? WOULD YOU WANT TO GO TO THE ALT. UNIVERSE?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

HYPOTHETICALLY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THIS* UNIVERSE? I DON'T REMEMBER THE STREETS BEING THIS EMPTY WHEN I WAS A KID, DO YOU? EVERYONE STAYS INSIDE NOW, THEY WATCH THEIR OTHER LIVES THROUGH THAT LITTLE WINDOW. THE ALT. UNIVERSE IS *SO* MUCH BETTER, SO ADVANCED.

THEY DO HAVE ZEPPELINS.

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE EVERYONE'S IN THE ALT. UNIVERSE ALREADY.

I LOOK INTO PEOPLE'S EYES AND THEY'RE NOT THERE. THEY'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

...AND WHERE DO YOU WANNA BE?

...THERE'S A LOT TO EXPLORE IN THIS UNIVERSE, DON'T YOU THINK?

I ALMOST DID ONE OF YOUR DAD'S TRIALS WHEN I WAS A KID, BEFORE THE WINDOW CAME OUT. AN EARLY EXPERIMENT, I THINK. BUT THEY CANCELLED THE TRIAL THE DAY BEFORE. MY STEPDAD WAS PISSED...IT WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT OF MONEY. THAT'S WHEN WE MOVED TO BOSTON.

FUNNY HOW LIFE WORKS SOMETIMES. WE COULD'VE MET YEARS AGO.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIMENTS? I SAW YOU JOTTING IN THAT NOTEBOOK ON THE WAY OVER HERE.

IT'S NOTHING...

YOU PLANNING TO RUIN THE WORLD, TOO?

...I'VE BEEN PLAYING AROUND WITH ONE OF MY DAD'S FORMULAS, TRYING TO IMPRESS HIM. I THOUGHT I HAD STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING TONIGHT-- BUT I WAS WRONG. IT DIDN'T WORK.

THAT'S IMPRESSIVELY VAGUE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME ANYWAY, EVEN WHEN I DO HAVE IDEAS. I BARELY EXIST TO HIM. SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I COULD DROP DEAD AND HE WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

YO, BISHOP!

I KNEW I RECOGNIZED YOU. YOU STOLE MY ROLEX.

WHAT? YOU STEPPED ON *MY*...

...I KNOW YOUR DAD'S RICH. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE HIM A LITTLE CALL? I'M SURE HE DOESN'T WANT THIS IN THE PAPERS.

GET *OFF* ME!

BAM

YOU KNOW KUNG FU?

AND YOU STEAL WATCHES? WHAT FOR? *TIME TRAVEL* EXPERIMENTS?

I DON'T STEAL WATCHES!

POW

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN, HANGING OUT WITH A BISHOP.

I DIDN'T STEAL *ANYTHING*. C'MON...

LOOKS LIKE THE STREETS AREN'T COMPLETELY EMPTY. STILL SOME JERKS AROUND.

...WHERE AM I...?

IT'S JUST AMNESIA SPRAY. HE'LL BE FINE.

AMNESIA SPRAY?

YOUR BEDROOM LOOKS LIKE MY SCHOOL'S CHEMISTRY LAB.

THIS SHOULD HELP WITH YOUR ANKLE. GOTTA BE QUIET, GREG MIGHT HEAR US.

YOUR PAPER'S NOT BAD. YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR DAD READ IT. WHAT'S THIS ONE DO?

YOU DON'T NEED IT.

WHAT *IS* IT?

CONCENTRATED PHEROMONES. YOU DON'T NEED IT.

I'M REALLY FINE...

YEAH, YOU PROBABLY DROPKICK GUYS EVERY WEEKEND, HUH?

...IT WASN'T A DROPKICK. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

...IT WAS A JOKE...

...WHY DID YOU LIKE MY PAINTING SO MUCH?

...I FELT LIKE I'D SEEN IT BEFORE...

...ME TOO...

I WANNA SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

"EVER LOOKED AT THE STARS THROUGH A MINI-WINDOW? I HOOKED ONE UP TO THIS TELESCOPE, ON THE LEFT SIDE THERE. THE RIGHT HALF ARE OUR STARS."

"SO WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?"

"SEE WHERE THEY MEET IN THE MIDDLE? THAT'S ***DARK MATTER***. I THINK IT'S CREATED WHEN UNIVERSES BUMP UP AGAINST EACH OTHER. WHEN ONE UNIVERSE SWALLOWS ANOTHER, IT BECOMES A BLACK HOLE."

SO THERE'S MORE THAN TWO UNIVERSES?

I THINK THERE'S AN *INIFINTE* NUMBER. BUT TRY TELLING MY DAD THAT.

AND BLACK HOLES ARE DIFFERENT THAN WORMHOLES, RIGHT?

WHAT?

OLIVIA, YOU'RE A GENIUS...

THAT'S SO SIMPLE BUT I NEVER CHECKED FOR THAT.

I WAS ADJUSTING TO THE FREQUENCY OF THE DARK MATTER ITSELF, NOT THE BLACK HOLES. IT'S NOT POROUS ENOUGH.

WHAT DID I SAY?

YOU SAID THE *PERFECT* THING. MY DAD ALWAYS SAID HE WAS SO CLOSE, HE COULD JUST NEVER GET INTO THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND TO FIGURE IT OUT. I HAVE A FEELING THAT'S WHY WE MET TONIGHT.

WHY *WE* MET? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU MADE A WINDOW... PETER, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR ALTERNATE, YOU'RE GONNA...

...THIS ISN'T JUST A WINDOW. THIS IS A PORTAL. I CAN *CROSS OVER.*

DeVoor's New Universe

YOU DID WELL TODAY, SON. GREAT IDEAS.

OVER THERE, HE LISTENS TO ME...

COME DOWNSTAIRS. YOUR MOTHER JUST SET THE TABLE.

MOM DIDN'T LEAVE HIM...

PETER, YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T RIGHT. THIS HAPPENS TO EVERYONE. YOU'RE GOING TO GET LOST...

YOU THINK YOU'D BE HAPPY JUST VISITING? POPPING OVER TO THE ALT. UNIVERSE WHENEVER YOU FELT LIKE IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO WANT TO TAKE HIS PLACE?

STEAL A BETTER LIFE INSTEAD OF MAKING YOUR OWN? YOU THINK THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES TO ANY OF THIS?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

MY DAD'S BEEN TRYING TO CROSS OVER FOR 10 YEARS AND HE COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT. AND I DID! I TOLD YOU, I BET THERE'RE A BILLION ALT. UNIVERSES.

DON'T YOU GET THAT? DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THIS MEANS? I DON'T HAVE TO BE STUCK HERE ANYMORE. I CAN HAVE WHATEVER I WANT.

I KNEW IT. YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM.

I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, PETER. YOU'LL MAKE A FINE SCIENTIST ONE DAY.

PETER? ARE YOU IN THERE?

...I'LL BE DAMNED...

PETER BISHOP ON THE SUBJECT OF DARK MATTER AND TRACE MICROWAVE SIGNATURES

...I'M SORRY...

YOU SAY THAT A LOT.

...THERE'S A LOT TO EXPLORE IN THIS UNIVERSE, DON'T YOU THINK?

END

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FRINGE

While at Harvard in the 1970s, Bishop and the elusive founder of Massive Dynamic, William Bell, conducted an astounding array of experiments that pushed the boundaries of science and ethics. For the first time, see how this unique pair met and the work that made them legends!

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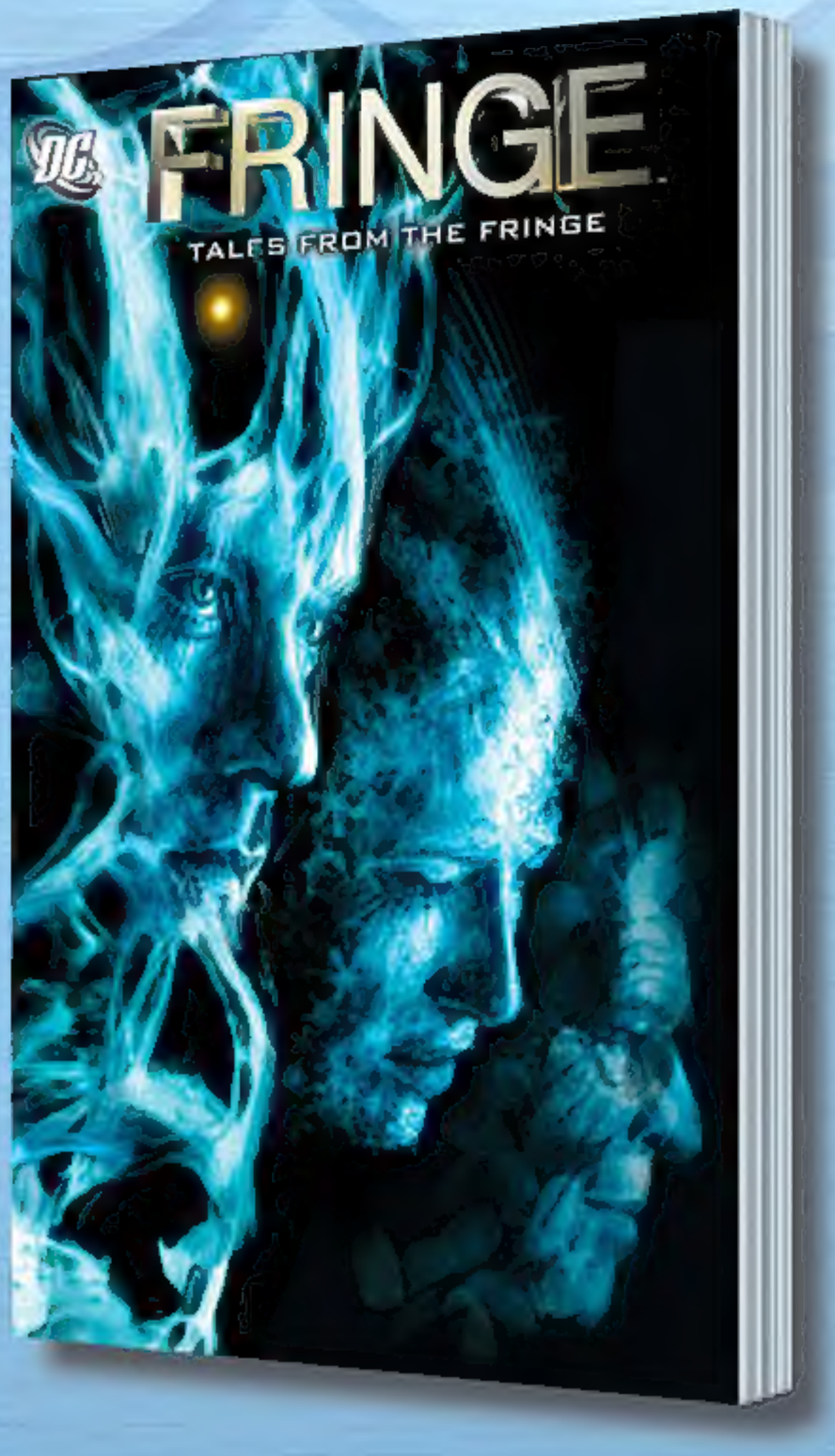

FRINGE: TALES FROM THE FRINGE

Delve into the ongoing sagas of Peter Bishop, Olivia Dunham, Philip Broyles, Astrid Farnsworth, Nina Sharp and Gene the Cow, and discover what drove them to become the people (or bovines) they are today.

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